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Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

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TO : Chairman, Projects Review Committee DATE: 6 December 1950

FROM : Assistant Director/CD

SUBJECT: Publication of Reference Book, Soviet Men of Science

I Discussion

1. The Assistant Director, OSI has proposed (Tab A) that a publication be prepared which shall constitute a major work of reference for information on scientists of the Soviet Union.

2. The proposal of AD/SI stems from the fact that there is no compendium in existence which supplies more than a partial list of the scientific and technological personnel of the USSR or account of their training, activities and accomplishments. To the contrary, information concerning Soviet scientists is highly fragmented, existing in varying amounts and degrees of reliability in numerous uncoordinated collections and sources.

3. Attached as Tab B is an outline and description of a project to produce a reference work of the character contemplated by AD/SI, further defined by the consultation of a committee composed of representatives of OSI, FDD/OO and BR/CD and study within the Biographic Register. The subject publication will meet the need of a basic intelligence tool and provide additional benefits as follows:

a. It will ease the burden of intelligence officers and analysts in identifying and appraising Soviet scientific personnel with commensurate saving in time, and conversely will reduce speculation and error;

b. It will provide a focus for collection efforts and for the pooling of information now available to the end that information on Soviet scientists will be increased both in range and depth. Not only will the largest possible number of persons be identified and made known in the work but the detailed basic records (dossiers) will be verified and expanded;

c. It will greatly facilitate the servicing of the IAC agencies within the intent of NSCID No. 8 by making a large amount of information on the most significant segment of foreign scientists immediately available and thus obviate much of the present need for formal requests and attendant delays in response;

d. It will answer many questions now referred to the Biographic Register from all sources, and will free many man hours for other types of production;

e. It will provide many field representatives with their only immediate source of biographic information on Russian scientists;

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f. It will result in greater familiarity throughout the Government with the biographic program and the reciprocal benefit of increased contribution to the Biographic Register's files.

4. The cost of the project, estimated at a total of \$27,071, is summarized as Tab C.

II Recommendation

1. It is recommended that:

a. The production of a reference book on Soviet scientists and technological personnel as outlined at Tab B be approved for execution under the immediate supervision of the Biographic Register, OCD, and that;

b. The sum of \$27,071 as estimated at Tab C be authorized for expenditure for personnel, supplies and services beyond the present resources of the Register and CIA.

[Redacted]
JAMES M. ANDREWS
Assistant Director
Collection & Dissemination

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1. Tab A - Memo, AD/SI
2. Tab B - Description of Project
3. Tab C - Summary of Cost

FOR CONCURRENCE:

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AD/SI

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as to availability of printing facilities

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